the EPISCOPAL CHURCH in WESTERN OREGON

BISHOP'S CUSTOMARY

The Rt. Rev. Diana Akiyama

The following Customary outlines practices for our common life together in worship as the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon. Please take note of references to the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), Enriching Our Worship (EOW). The rubrics give clarity as well as relative flexibility for developing worship services for local use.

The primary worship service on Sunday should use a liturgy from either the BCP or EOW. The liturgies from the New Zealand Prayer Book are not authorized for use at the primary worship services of the Church. Please only use authorized translations of the liturgy. When the diocese is gathered for worship (ordinations, conventions, for example) the liturgies will be provided in both English and Spanish languages. The Episcopal Church has official translations of the Book of Common Prayer in Mandarin, Korean, Japanese, Spanish and French. If additional language translations are needed, please consult with the diocesan office.

It is assumed the Nicene Creed is used on Sundays and other major feasts at celebration of the Holy Eucharist as required by the rubrics of the BCP. The use of various creedal statements like those used in parts of the New Zealand Prayer Book are not authorized for use at the primary worship services of this Church.

The liturgy must focus on teaching and sharing the identity of The Episcopal Church in public worship. Resolution A068 from the 2018 General Convention that calls: "…worshiping communities in experimentation and the creation of alternative texts to offer to the wider church, and that each diocese be urged to create a liturgical commission to collect, reflect, teach and share these resources with the TFLPBR" (Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision). The same resolution also "memorialize[d] the 1979 Book of Common Prayer as a Prayer Book of the church preserving the psalter, liturgies, The Lambeth Quadrilateral, Historic Documents, and Trinitarian Formularies ensuring its continued use" and affirmed that the Church would continue "to engage the deep Baptismal and Eucharistic theology and practice of the 1979 Prayer Book". This resolution calls the Church to well-ordered and communal liturgical renewal. It also instructs that any liturgical revision "utilize the riches of Holy Scripture and our Church's liturgical, cultural, racial, generational, linguistic, gender, physical ability, class and ethnic diversity in order to share common worship." The Liturgy and Music Commission will work to provide guidelines regarding experimental liturgies with limits of use and a means for evaluation.

The Episcopal adaptation of the Revised Common Lectionary was approved by the 75th General Convention and is the norm for use in all congregations of this diocese. It is assumed one of the numerous authorized English translations of the Bible will be used during the liturgy (Canons of the Episcopal Church II.2.1). The bishop will authorize translations of the scripture in other languages as needed.

Regarding Holy Baptism, the BCP states, "Holy Baptism is appropriately administered within the Holy Eucharist as chief service on a Sunday or a feast" (BCP, p. 298). Please consult the BCP (p. 312) for the most appropriate Sundays for Holy Baptism. Baptisms should take place in the context of public worship and private Baptisms will take place only in the event of a pastoral emergency or very rare pastoral necessity. The bishop should be consulted before a private Baptism is administered for pastoral necessity. Baptisms should be avoided during the season of Lent, except in an emergency. When the bishop baptizes an adult or a youth, they do not need to be presented for Confirmation (see BCP p. 413).

The bishop will be the celebrant at the Liturgy of the Word and the celebrant at Holy Communion. At a visitation, she will normally be the preacher. An exception is made for the bishop's presence at Trinity Cathedral at the Easter morning and Christmas Eve liturgies, in which the custom is to alternate preaching and celebrating with the Dean of the Cathedral. If a deacon is present, they should read the Gospel, introduce (or lead) the Prayers of the People and Confession, set the Table, and announce the dismissal. The congregation's priest may make announcements and serve the deacon's functions if there is no deacon. Priests should not officiate at the Liturgy of the Word when the bishop is present for a visitation or other major event. Priests may silently con-celebrate during the celebration of Holy Communion. The bishop will give the Absolution after Confession and will bless the people with the Final Blessing. For worship services including the bishop, please provide the bishop with a copy of the proposed liturgy at least two (2) weeks in advance.

For online events involving the bishop (Zoom), there should be a registration for the event with a waiting room and/or password initiated for the event. The direct link and password should not be publicized on social media or beyond the scope of the intended audience. Online events should have more than one moderator with the ability to mute, restrict the sharing abilities of, and remove individuals if needed. They should be identified at the beginning of the event.

It is expected that all clergy of this diocese attend the Annual Meeting of Diocesan Convention unless prevented by illness or travel. All active clergy are expected to attend the annual Clergy Retreat, and all retired clergy are welcome to attend as well. Likewise, clergy are urged to attend ordinations and the welcoming of new clergy in congregations. It is understood that some clergy are bi-vocational, and attendance is therefore difficult. Please contact the bishop directly if unable to attend convention or the clergy retreat. All active clergy are expected to take part in the governance of the diocese either through an elected position or as a member of a working group/commission/committee.

March 2023